

# Senate File 204 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 204  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 10)

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a task force on the prevention of sexual  
2 abuse of children and including effective date provisions.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1     Section 1.   TASK FORCE ON THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF  
2 CHILDREN.

3     1.   A task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of  
4 children is established consisting of the following members:

5     a.   Four members of the general assembly serving as ex  
6 officio, nonvoting members, with not more than one member from  
7 each chamber being from the same political party. The two  
8 senators shall be appointed one each by the majority leader  
9 of the senate after consultation with the president of the  
10 senate and by the minority leader of the senate. The two  
11 representatives shall be appointed one each by the speaker  
12 of the house of representatives after consultation with the  
13 majority leader of the house of representatives and by the  
14 minority leader of the house of representatives.

15    b.   The director of the department of human services or the  
16 director's designee.

17    c.   The director of the department of education or the  
18 director's designee.

19    d.   The director of the department of public health or the  
20 director's designee.

21    e.   The state court administrator or the state court  
22 administrator's designee.

23    f.   A representative of the Iowa county attorneys  
24 association, appointed by the president of that association.

25    g.   A representative of the chief juvenile court officers,  
26 appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court.

27    h.   A representative of a statewide professional teachers'  
28 organization, appointed by the president of that organization.

29    i.   A representative of an organization involved in the  
30 prevention of child abuse in this state, appointed by the  
31 director of the department of human services.

32    j.   A representative of an organization representing school  
33 administrators in this state, appointed by the president of  
34 that organization.

35    k.   A representative of an organization representing the

1 boards of school districts in this state, appointed by the  
2 executive director of that organization.

3 1. A representative of the Iowa psychological association,  
4 appointed by the president of that organization.

5 m. A representative of the Iowa coalition against  
6 sexual assault, appointed by the executive director of that  
7 organization.

8 n. A representative of prevent child abuse Iowa, appointed  
9 by the executive director of that organization.

10 o. A child abuse expert employed by or under contract with  
11 one of Iowa's nationally accredited child protection centers,  
12 appointed by the director of the regional child protection  
13 center located in Des Moines.

14 2. Members of the task force shall be individuals who are  
15 actively involved in the fields of child abuse prevention  
16 covered by child welfare. To the extent possible, appointment  
17 of members shall reflect the geographic diversity of the state.  
18 The members of the task force shall serve without compensation  
19 and shall not be reimbursed for their expenses.

20 3. The director of the organization under contract  
21 to administer child abuse prevention program funds under  
22 section 235A.1, or the director's designee, shall convene the  
23 organizational meeting of the task force. The task force shall  
24 elect from among its members a chairperson. Meetings shall be  
25 held at the call of the chairperson or at the request of two or  
26 more task force members. Six members shall constitute a quorum  
27 and the affirmative vote of six members shall be necessary for  
28 any action taken by the task force.

29 4. The organization under contract to administer child  
30 abuse prevention program funds under section 235A.1 shall  
31 provide staff support to the task force.

32 5. The task force shall consult with employees of the  
33 department of human services, the Iowa coalition against sexual  
34 assault, the department of public safety, the state board  
35 of education, and any other state agency or department as

1 necessary to accomplish the task force's responsibilities under  
2 this section.

3     6. The task force shall develop a model policy addressing  
4 sexual abuse of children that may include but is not limited  
5 to the following:

6     a. Age-appropriate curricula for students enrolled in  
7 prekindergarten through grade five.

8     b. Training options for school personnel on child sexual  
9 abuse.

10    c. Educational information for parents and guardians that  
11 may be provided in the school handbook and may include the  
12 warning signs of a child being abused, along with any needed  
13 assistance, referral, or resource information.

14    d. Counseling options and resources available statewide for  
15 students affected by sexual abuse.

16    e. Emotional and educational support services that may be  
17 available for a child of abuse to continue to be successful in  
18 school.

19    f. Methods for increasing teacher, student, and parent  
20 awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children,  
21 including but not limited to knowledge of likely warning signs  
22 indicating that a child may be a victim of sexual abuse.

23    g. Actions that a child who is a victim of sexual abuse  
24 should take to obtain assistance and intervention.

25     7. The task force shall make recommendations for preventing  
26 the sexual abuse of children in Iowa. In making those  
27 recommendations, the task force shall do the following:

28     a. Gather information concerning child sexual abuse  
29 throughout the state.

30     b. Receive reports and testimony from individuals, state  
31 and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other  
32 public and private organizations.

33     c. Create goals for state policy that would prevent child  
34 sexual abuse.

35     d. Submit a final report with its recommendations to the

1 governor and the general assembly on or before January 16,  
2 2012. The recommendations may include proposals for specific  
3 statutory changes and methods to foster cooperation among state  
4 agencies and between the state, local school districts, and  
5 other local governments.

6 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of  
7 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

8 EXPLANATION

9 This bill establishes a task force on the prevention of  
10 sexual abuse of children in Iowa.

11 The task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children  
12 consists of four members of the general assembly serving as ex  
13 officio, nonvoting members; the directors of the departments  
14 of human services, education, and public health or the  
15 directors' designees; the state court administrator or the  
16 state court administrator's designee; and representatives of  
17 the Iowa county attorneys association, the chief juvenile court  
18 officers, a statewide professional teachers' organization, an  
19 organization involved in the prevention of child abuse in this  
20 state, an organization representing school administrators in  
21 this state, an organization representing the boards of school  
22 districts in this state, the Iowa psychological association,  
23 the Iowa coalition against sexual assault, prevent child  
24 abuse Iowa, and Iowa's nationally accredited child protection  
25 centers.

26 The members of the task force serve without compensation and  
27 shall not be reimbursed for their expenses. The organization  
28 under contract to administer child abuse prevention program  
29 funds under Code section 235A.1 shall provide staff support to  
30 the task force.

31 The task force shall consult with employees of the  
32 department of human services, the Iowa coalition against sexual  
33 assault, the department of public safety, the state board  
34 of education, and any other state agency or department as  
35 necessary to accomplish the task force's responsibilities.

1     The task force shall develop a model policy addressing  
2 sexual abuse of children. The policy may include an  
3 age-appropriate curriculum for students enrolled in  
4 prekindergarten through grade five; training options for  
5 school personnel on child sexual abuse; educational and  
6 other information for parents and guardians; counseling and  
7 resources for students affected by sexual abuse; emotional  
8 and educational support for a child of abuse to continue to  
9 be successful in school, methods for increasing awareness of  
10 issues regarding sexual abuse of children, and actions that a  
11 child who is a victim of sexual abuse should take to obtain  
12 assistance and intervention.

13     The task force shall make recommendations for reducing child  
14 sexual abuse in Iowa and in making those recommendations shall  
15 gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the  
16 state; receive reports and testimony from individuals, state  
17 and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other  
18 public and private organizations; create goals for state policy  
19 that would prevent child sexual abuse; and submit a final  
20 report with its recommendations to the governor and the general  
21 assembly on or before January 16, 2012. The recommendations  
22 may include proposals for specific statutory changes and for  
23 methods to foster cooperation among state agencies and between  
24 the state, local school districts, and other local governments.

25     The bill takes effect upon enactment.